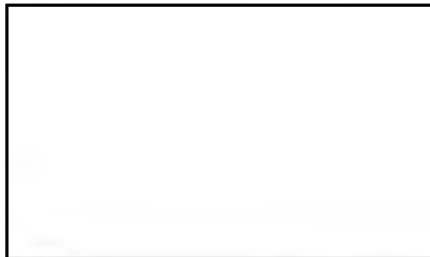


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25X1

CONTENTS

25X1

4. West Berlin - West Germany: Brandt renews
offensive for his policy in dealing with the
East. (Page 6)

6. Notes: Venezuela; South Korea; USSR. (Page 8)

25X1

Approved For Release 2002/10/22 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007500280001-8

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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West Berlin - West Germany: Mayor Brandt has renewed the offensive for his policy of closer contacts with the East.

Brandt's 28 February radio-TV speech showed strong elements of partisan tactics. He called for responsible German political elements to try to reach agreement on a basic policy to guide contacts with East Germany as, for example, in the Berlin pass talks.

He proposed that representatives of the federal government, the Berlin Senat, and the three Bundestag parties meet to agree on their basic approach to this question.

Brandt repeated his defense of the Christmas arrangement on passes, which he cited as a point of departure for further agreements. Future actions, he said, should be based on three principles: the maintenance of Bonn-Berlin ties, the inviolability of Allied rights and obligations, and the nonrecognition of the Soviet Zone.

Chancellor Erhard has asked Brandt to meet with him this week to discuss the matter of how to deal with East Germany.

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NOTES

Venezuela: The new government of Raul Leoni, to be inaugurated on 11 March, will be weakened by the refusal of the Christian Democratic Party (COPEI) to continue its present coalition status. COPEI announced on 29 February that henceforth it would act with "autonomy of action" but would also be prepared to discuss collaboration in Congress. This leaves Leoni's party in a position where it cannot count on a firm majority in Congress.

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South Korea: President Pak Chong-hui may soon be forced to make significant cabinet changes because of pressures generated by steadily rising food prices. Won Yong-sok, minister of agriculture and forestry, who has been the focal point of attacks on the food cost issue, is regarded as certain to be replaced, and Kim Yu-taek, chairman of the Economic Planning Board, is also considered vulnerable. Pak has turned to the newly formed Economic and Scientific Council for a solution to the food price problem.

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USSR: In an extraordinary move, republic and local-level officials were called in to meet with the Soviet party presidium on 28 February to discuss new approaches designed to improve economic conditions. According to TASS, Khrushchev stressed the need for providing additional material incentives for agricultural workers by tying income more closely to output. Measures for solving the perennial problem of spreading construction resources among too many projects were also discussed.

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